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# The humble PETITION OF THE Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common-councell ASSEMBLED.

WORCESTER CO... LIBRA...

## To the Right Honourable the Lords and Commons assembled in High Court of PARLIAMENT.

## With the *Answer* of the Lords and Commons to the said Petition.

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Printed by *Richard Cotes*, Printer to the Honorable City of LONDON, *Decemb.* 1. 1647.

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Honorable City of London, [illegible] 1667.

# TO THE HONOVRABLE THE House of Commons ASSEMBLED In High Court of PARLIAMENT:

*The humble Petition of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of* London *in Common councell assembled.*

Sheweth,

THat your Petitioners doe with all readineſſe acknowledg the High Court of Parliament to bee the ſupreame Power and Judicatory in this Kingdome, conſtituted for the defence and contrivement of the ſafety and freedome of this Nation, unto whom all other Powers and Societies of men ought to ſubmit, & with their utmoſt ability to aſſiſt and ſupport, in whoſe well-being and happy progreſſe, the peaceable and flouriſhing condition of this Nation doth principally conſiſt.

The contempt and overthrow of whose power and authority, cannot but bee the wofull inlet to all Tyranny and confusion, the peoples slavery, and the Lawes subversion.

And your Petitioners doe with all thankfulnesse acknowledge and remember the unwearied paines, unceſſant labour, and constant indeavours of this present Parliament in the common cause of God and this Kingdome, wherein (though your enemies have been many and great, their oppositions strong, their counsells deepe, and your discouragements not a few;) Yet (through the good hand of God upon you) with the united assistance of our Brethren of *Scotland*) and the well-affected people of this Kingdome, joyned together in a solemne League and Covenant, whose lives and treasure under God became your Bulwark, (among whom this Citie hath been by you often acknowledged to bee contributers of an ample share) Your enemies have been dispersed, their counsells broken, your endeavours crowned with honour, and your Armies rest successefull.

And though the long desired fruits of peace, of freedome and common Justice, the easing of the peoples burthens and reforming of abuses, have been much obstructed and retarded by the necessities of a long continued warre, the sad divisions amongst all orders and societies of men in the Kingdome, the feares of apparent dangers and suddaine changes to arise thereby; yet when your Petitioners looke upon their exemption from monopolies and other illegall impositions, the deliverances they have had from the power and tyranny of the Prelats and their vexatious Courts, the demolishing of the High-Commission, Star-Chamber, and that unparallel'd benefit and freedome this Kingdome now enjoyes in the removall of the

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Court of Wards, whereby the persons, the posterities and estates of the Subjects were so much incumbred and inthral'd (all which by many are ungratefully forgotten and cast out of mind) and which therefore out of duty your Petitioners have imboldned themselves thus publiquely to enumerate, they cannot choose but with renewed hopes expect ere long to see the Kingdome flourish and their troubles ended.

And when your Petitioners do consider how not many months agon, the whole Kingdom seemed to be reduced to the obedience of the Parliament, their Brethren of *Scotland* returned home with good content, the City repleniſhed againe with Inhabitants, the exchange of moneys with forraigne Nations brought into a good *Medium*, Trade in a prosperous condition, the Excise and Customes increasing thereby, a way of settlement agreed upon by the Parliaments of both Nations, and all things looking with a face of quietnesse and sweet composure; They cannot but with griefe of heart remember the unhappy disagreement betweene the Parliament and Army, and that late dangerous ingagement, which as it was set on foot in or about this City, without their knowledge or consent, so they doe utterly disavow and abhorre it. Those many discontents and great disturbances which accompanied the same and followed thereupon both to Parliament and City. Those unparalleld outrages and affronts committed by Reformadoes and other tumultuous and discontented persons upon both Houses, and the Armies advancing towards this City; The Common-Councell hurried into a Declaration and into divers Military preparations intended by them for no other

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end but the safety of Parliament and City.

Whereupon hath followed the free-quartering of the Army about the City, which hath occasioned the dearnesse of Provisions, and given opportunity to evill minded persons to foment differences and discontents both in the City and Army, and hath caused forraigne Nations and others to call home and remove their stockes to parts beyond the Seas, to the great decay of trade in this Citie and Kingdome; and by the disproportion of exchange, this Kingdome is not onely deprived of forraign Bullyon, but (through the incouragement taken thereby) have their owne coyn transported away.

That your Petitioners are deeply sensible of the great displeasure of the Parliament towards this City, manifested in the limiting the extent of their *Militia*, taking away the nomination of the Persons intrusted therewith, and of the Lievtenancy of the Tower of *London*; the guarding of the Parliament and Tower with Souldiers of the Army, the imprisoning of their Recorder, severall Aldermen, and other Members of this City.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray, That the Honor, Power and Priviledges of Parliament may by your Wisdome and Justice be inviolably preserved; That the Army may be so provided for, that they may be enabled to remove their Quarters to a farther distance from the City, whereby the price of Provisions may be abated, and Trade encouraged; That Free-quarter may be prevented, and supernumerary Forces disbanded; That a more vigorous course may bee taken

ken in ſetling of the Peace and Government of the Kingdome ſo long deſired; That the Covenant may be duly obſerved; That all wel-affected Perſons that have adhered to the Parliament may be effectually protected and defended; That the Recorder, Aldermen, and other Citizens now impriſoned (ſo as it may ſtand with the Honor and Wiſdome of Parliament) may be enlarged, which your Petitioners ſhall eſteem a great favor to this City: And that all the late unhappy proceedings as unto this City and Members thereof may be forgotten and obliterated; That your Petitioners may enjoy the ſplendor of your former favors, and be thereby enabled to be the more ſerviceable to the preſervation of the Parliament and City, and re-uniting of all that are wel-affected thereunto: Which is their moſt earneſt and hearty deſire.

*And your Petitioners ſhall pray, &c.*

*Die Mercurii*, 1. *Decembr*. 1647.

THE Lords have commanded me to let you know that they return you Thanks for the acknowledgments you now make for the benefits received by this Parliament; and for the care of the Honor and Priviledges of Parliament, as the ſupreme Court and Judicatory of this Kingdome: Together with thoſe good affections which are very largely and ſeaſonably expreſſed by this your Petition.

They deſire you to bee aſſured, that they will improve their utmoſt endeavors for the eaſing of the burdens that lie upon the Kingdome, for the procuring of a juſt and ſafe Peace; neither wil they omit any meanes that may reſtore aga in the City of London unto a flouri-

ſhing and happy condition in reſpect of Trade, as a return for thoſe great and faithfull ſervices that they have done to the Parliament and Kingdom.

As to the other particulars in the Petition which relate to the Power of this Houſe, they ſhall take them into their conſideration, and doe therein what ſhall bee according to Honor and Juſtice.

*Joh. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.*

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*Die*

## *Die Mercurij* 1. *Decembr.* 1647.

THe Houſe being informed that the Sheriffe and divers Aldermen, and Common-Councell men were at the doore deſiring to preferre a Petition to the Houſe; They were called in, and Sheriffe *Bide* acquainted the Houſe that they were commanded by the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons in Common-Councell aſſembled to preferre a Petition from them to this Houſe; the which the Petitioners being withdrawne was read.

*Reſolved, &c.*

THat this ſhall bee the ſubſtance of the anſwer to the Citizens, *Viz.*

To give them thankes for the expreſſion of their good affections to the Parliament, that as to the deſires in their Petition, in ſome of them order hath been taken already, ſome are under conſideration, as that concerning free quarter, and other; and as to their laſt deſire touching ſome members of the Citie that lye under reſtraint,

ſtraint, the houſe will ſpeedily doe therein what may conſiſt with the juſtice and honor of this Houſe.

The Citizens were againe called in, and Mr. Speaker by the command of the Houſe gave them the ſubſtance of the aforeſaid anſwer.

Hen. Elſynge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

FINIS.